

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 3 NO. 2

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JULY 1996

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CONTINUING EXHIBIT

The Spring exhibit of the Rutland Historical Society, "The Formation of Proctor and West Rutland (1886)", will continue through the Summer. The exhibit explores the historical background of sectionalism in the old Town of Rutland. It also deals with the issues that led to the division of the old Town of Rutland into multiple towns in 1886. The exhibit includes maps and pictures of many of the people who played roles in the formation of the Town of Proctor and the Town of West Rutland from the old Town of Rutland.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Program Committee of the Rutland Historical Society will be offering the following two programs in July at 7:00 pm in the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library on Court Street in Rutland:

MON 15 JUL "The Battle of Valcour Island and The Search For Arnold's Fleet" - a slide/lecture by Russell Bellico, author of the book "Sails and Steam in the Mountains".

WED 31 JUL "Rutland Aflame: The Fires of 1868" - a presentation with slides by Jim Davidson, Rutland local historian.

WILLY, THE WOODCHUCK, AIDS THE SOCIETY

Willy, the Woodchuck, lives at the Rutland Fair Grounds, over near the Farm Museum Building. This year Willy has contributed a beautiful prescription bottle from F.E.D. Farmer, the Prescription Store, Rutland, Vermont.

Willy's annual excavations yield a Rutland artifact nearly every year. This year's contribution was in excellent condition.

Now how about you? As you annually weed out your pictures, letters, postcards, books, memorabilia etc. will you contribute something to the Society? There may be items that you would like to give away that the Society might like to have. Give us at least an opportunity to decline. We obviously can't take everything but you must remember that your trash may be a treasure to us. Call us at 775-2006 and leave a message on our tape with your phone number. Someone will get back to you soon.

**IMPORTANT !!!
PLEASE READ
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE ARTICLE
ON PAGE 3**

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Society's trolley car float again took a prominent place in the Loyalty Day Parade. Thanks are offered to the First Republic Brass for music, Edward Fabian Earth Moving for arrangements, Parkman Transport of Pittsford for hauling, and Giddings Manufacturing Co. Inc. for the flat bed trailer.

VISITS TO THE SOCIETY BY APPOINTMENT

The Society's Exhibit Committee welcomes small groups who would like to visit the Society's exhibit and/or research facilities by appointment. This Spring we have had visits from the Rutland Intermediate School, the Rutland Junior High School, a Rutland women's group, a group of Senior Citizens from The Meadows at East Mountain and a troop of Brownies from Grace Congregational United Church of Christ. Any small group that would like to visit the Society is cordially invited to contact Jim Davidson, Exhibit Chairperson, at 773-7525.

MOST RECENT QUARTERLY

The Quarterly "Growing Up in West Rutland: A Jewish Heritage" (Volume XXVI No. 2) is sold out. We have been deluged with requests for extra copies and with compliments on the excellence of the issue. We can still provide photocopies of the issue at the usual price of \$2.00 per issue.

QUARTERLY CORRECTIONS

There are two notes of correction that pertain to the Quarterly "Hospital Care in Rutland: The First Century" (Volume XXVI No. 1). On page 23 Mr. Bernie Batchelder should be Mr. Birney Batcheller. On page 26 Evelyn Johnson (now Farrell) of Middletown Springs was a member of the Junior Class of the Rutland Hospital's training program. Her name was omitted. Thanks to our readers who keep us on our toes.

**WE CAN USE OLD QUARTERLIES
OR NEWSLETTERS
YOU DON'T WANT**

COMMITTEE CORNER

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Alan Shelvey - 775-4168

Artifacts Committee
Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

Building Committee
Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Historic Preservation Committee
Ann Singiser - 773-8172

Library Committee
Ann Glagola - 775-1302

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Don Bordeau - 775-2761

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

In the last Newsletter we explained why increasing membership in the Society is crucial to the interests of each member. Like any business, an increase in the volume of our publications reduces the cost of the individual items. This is the one way that we can all assist the Society in a cost containment that will not reduce either the quality or quantity of our publications. But we need your help to make this happen.

Our last appeal resulted in an increase of slightly over 10% in members. This was a great response but we need help from everyone. Only you know the family and friends who are interested in Rutland's history and thus ought to be members. And now is a wonderful time to invite them to become members because all new dues now received will be credited through the year 1997. The last two issues of this year will be sent to new members as a bonus. (six issues for the price of four.)

Is it not realistic that we might gain another 10% in members before our next Newsletter?

WANTED

The Exhibit Committee's Fall Exhibit will deal with Leisure Activities in Rutland during the 1920's and 1930's. We can use leisure type clothing and small objects used in leisure activities as well as pictures from these eras. Call Jim Davidson at 773-7525 if you have material to donate or loan.

RESEARCH VISITS TO SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS ON THE INCREASE

This Spring the Society has seen an increase in the number of visits on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons for the purpose of research. Many visits are for genealogical information but there have been visits for other more general research. One visit was arranged by a college researcher from Australia. Another graduate student used resources and assistance to prepare a graduate research presentation on economic development in Rutland for Norwich University. Joan Lazzaro of Mendon, a Society member, made major use of the Society's resources for her very successful Castleton State College senior thesis on "An Exploration of a Rutland City Neighborhood in the 1950's". Joan has donated a copy of this paper to the Society library.

The Monday and Saturday hosts welcome requests for research assistance by amateurs and professionals of all ages.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Rutland Historical Society Library Committee meets regularly on Wednesday mornings for work sessions from 9 am to 12 noon. Interested persons are invited to join these work sessions. For further information please call Chairperson Ann Glagola at 775-1302.

GIFT OF FILE CABINETS

Society life member Lloyd Davis has contributed ten six-drawer steel lateral files to the Society. We have ganged the units together in two levels of five units each in our Library storage area. The combination provides sixty drawers. Each drawer is 33 inches by 16 inches and five inches deep. There are also provisions for sub-dividing each drawer. This will provide excellent storage for artifacts and oversized documents that now crowd our map file cases. The Society thanks Lloyd for seeing this need and responding to it.

THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:

MONDAYS **6 - 9 PM**

SATURDAYS **1 - 4 PM**

BASEMENT FLOODING

On 13 May, Building Chairperson "Mo" Tucker was astounded to open the basement door and find nearly four inches of water covering the basement floor. A call to the City Public Works Department brought immediate help to remove the water. A city waste water main on Center Street had blocked and the water backup had surged back through our water drain in spite of a device to prevent just such occurrences. Only a few items of note suffered water damage. Chief among these were about 20 volumes of old newspapers. Fortunately these are on microfilm which accounts for their storage in the basement. Other losses were mostly confined to replaceable items.

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor	\$50.00	Students	\$8.00
Contributing	\$20.00	(18 & under)	
Regular	\$10.00	Senior citizens	\$8.00
		(62 & up)	
Life Membership			\$200.00
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

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Jim Davidson - Editor

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